

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /078 W
-----101479 130808Z /11

R 121616Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5964
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD
GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEC
SUBJ: POSSIBLE EC RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF MANIOC

REF BRUSSELS 14284

1. AN OFFICIAL IN EC COMMISSION DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DG-I) RESPONSIBLE FOR ASEAN AFFAIRS
CONFIRMED RUMORS WE RECENTLY PICKED UP THAT THAILAND HAS
ASSURED THE COMMISSION THAT THERE WILL BE NO DRAMATIC
INCREASES IN ITS EXPORTS OF MANIOC TO THE COMMUNITY IN
THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HE SAID THAT THESE ASSURANCES
WERE GIVEN BY THE THAI MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE DURING
HIS VISIT LAST MONTH TO BRUSSELS. THESE ASSURANCES, WE
ARE TOLD, WERE LATER CONFIRMED AT THE CABINET LEVEL IN
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BANGKOK.

2. THE ACTION OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT WAS TAKEN IN
RESPONSE TO THE THREAT OF EC IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON MANIOC
AND OTHER FEEDGRAIN SUBSTITUTES RAISED BY THE FRENCH
GOVERNMENT IN OCTOBER 1977 (REFTEL). COMMISSIONER
HAFERKAMP REPORTEDLY TOLD THE THAI GOVERNMENT DURING HIS

DECEMBER TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD ACCEPT GREATER IMPORTS OF THAI MANIOC EACH YEAR AS LONG AS THE INCREASE WAS NOT TOO PRECIPITOUS.

3. THE DG I OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT THE COMMISSION NOW CONSIDERS THE QUESTION TO BE CLOSED AND DOES NOT ANTICIPATE TAKING ANY FURTHER ACTION - UNLESS A SUDDEN SURGE IN MANIOC EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY SHOULD OCCUR. HE ALSO SAID THAT NO NEW LICENSES FOR PELLETISATION OF MANIOC ARE BEING ISSUED BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT. MOREOVER, HE CLAIMED THAT THE ACREAGE IN MANIOC IS NO LONGER EXPANDING IN THAILAND, AND THAT DUE TO A RECENT FALL IN PRICES OF THIS PRODUCT, THAI FARMERS ARE CURRENTLY MORE INTERESTED IN OTHER PRODUCTS (E.G., CORN).

4. WE HAVE A COPY OF A JOINT ASEAN MEMORANDUM EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE FRENCH REQUEST TO IMPOSE IMPORT RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ON GRAIN SUBSTITUTES WHICH WAS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMUNITY IN LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER 1977. THIS MEMORANDUM STATES THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD JEOPARDIZE EXPORT EARNINGS OF ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THAILAND AND INDONESIA. IT NOTES THE IMPORTANCE OF MANIOC PRODUCTION TO THE ASEAN REGION, AND PARTICULARLY ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF THAILAND WHERE THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY EXIST. IT ASSERTS THAT ANY RESTRICTIVE MEASURES INTRODUCED BY THE COMMUNITY ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANIOC WOULD QUOTE RESULT IN DISLOCATION OF MILLIONS OF THE FARMING POPULATION UNQUOTE AND CAUSE QUOTE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO THE EFFORTS OF ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP THEIR NATIONAL ECONOMY UNQUOTE. A COPY OF THIS MEMORANDUM IS BEING SENT TO ED CASEY, EUR/RPE (STATE) AND OMERO SABATINI, FAS/USDA. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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